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## CARDIOVASCULAR TEACHING TECHNIQUES: PLANNING AND PRESENTING EFFECTIVE INSTRUCTION—ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES OF TEACHING IN CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICINE

**James A. Ronan, Jr., MD, FACC, Conference Director**

**Michael Weisberg, EdD, Conference Co-Director**

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### Foreword

The American College of Cardiology and the National Library of Medicine presented a program to update leaders from major cardiology training programs on new technologies available to assist with cardiology teaching at the graduate and undergraduate levels. The participants were designated by the cardiology training program directors as being the individuals primarily responsible for teaching cardiology at their institutions. Seventy individuals were invited to attend, not merely as enrollees, but as participants in the conference. The conference was designed around eight major teaching sessions with presentations and panel discussions at each session.

Interchange was encouraged between the attendees and the panelists. The primary goal of the conference was to introduce these key cardiology teachers to new methods and technologies available for effective instruction so that they could use these techniques at their own institutions. In addition to didactic sessions, there were exhibits on teaching techniques and technology by both physician and industry exhibitors.

The conference took place at the Heart House Learning Center in Bethesda, Maryland, but on the afternoon of October 10th, the sessions were conducted at the National Library of Medicine, Lister Hill National Center for

Biomedical Communications, Bethesda. The Lister Hill National Center for Biomedical Communications (LHNCBC) is the research and development component of the National Library of Medicine. The Center performs research and development to create and improve biomedical communication systems, methods and networks and to enhance information dissemination and utilization among health professionals.

The opening address at the conference was an overview of the Report of the Panel for General Professional Education of the Physician (the GPEP report) by Dr. Donald F. Leon, Professor of Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. This report is the result of a study implemented by the Association of American Medical Colleges to make recommendations for changes in basic education for physicians who will practice in the 21st century. Dr. Leon reviewed the important conclusions and recommendations of the report and stated that, taken as a whole, "it is a blueprint for significant shifts in educational preparation and emphasis; retaining the stronger aspects of the best basic program medicine has yet devised and simultaneously ridding it of overemphasis on science and technology in favor of learning of important skills and affective qualities."